fall, which I will anſwer for its having done now, by the progreſs I ſaw made towards it for the hour that I ſtaid; I ſay, now, the breadth in that place muſt be above a hundred yards.

Extract of a Letter from the ſame Gentleman, to the ſame, dated December 28, 1754.

Read Jan. 23, 1755. VEſuvius runs but with one, though that the moſt conſiderable ſtream of fire: he has alſo changed his note at top, and is now more angry than ever, throwing up ſtones and matter in greater abundance.

VII. *An Account of the Species of Plant, from which the Agaric, uſed as a Styptic, is prepared.* By *Mr.* William Watſon, *F. R. S.*

London, Feb. 1. 1755.

Read Feb. 6, 1755. I Lately acquainted the Royal Society, that I had ſome doubts, ariſing from the pieces I had ſeen, whether the agaric ſent from France, and applied as a ſtyptic after amputations, was the *fungus in caudicibus naſcens, pedis equini figurâ*, of Caſpar Bauhin; or the *fungus coriaceus quercinus hæmatodes* of Breynius, of which I gave a ſhort hiſtory. In order therefore to be confirmed in this matter, I wrote to our worthy brother M. Clairaut, of Paris, to lay ſome queries, I drew up, before M. Bernard de Juſſieu, and M. Morand, both members

members of this Society, and excellent judges of this ſubject. M. Clairaut, ſince our laſt meeting, has been ſo kind as to tranſmit to me their anſwer; by which it does appear, that this is prepared from a plant, which is called by the botaniſts

" Agaricus pedis equini figurâ. *Inſt. Rei. Herbar.*
" Fungus in caudicibus naſcens, pedis equini figurâ. *C. B. Pin.*
" Fungus durus arborum, ſive igniarius. *Park. Theat.*
" Fungi arborei ad ellychnia. *I. B.*
" Fungi igniarii Ciſalpini et Tragi.
" Boletus acaulis pulvinatus lævis, poris tenuiſſimis. *Linn. Flor. Suec.*

It is the agaric employed for the amadoue; and Mr. Broſſart, who firſt brought this preparation into practice, conceives, that that, which grows upon old oaks, which have been lopped, is the moſt valuable; that it ſhould be gathered in Auguſt or September, and be kept in a dry room.

The way of preparing it is to take off with a knife the white and hard part, till you find a ſubſtance ſo ſoft, as to yield under the finger, like ſhammy leather. This is to be divided into pieces of different ſizes and thickneſs: beat theſe with a hammer, to give them a ſtill greater degree of ſoftneſs, ſo that they may be eaſily torn with the finger.

Mr. Morand thinks, that the agaric, which when growing is of a greyiſh colour on the outſide, is better than that which is white.

W. Watſon.

VIII.